

**Wiltshire Council**

**Children's Select Committee**

**14 March 2017**

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## **Task Group update**

### **Purpose**

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

### **1. SEND Task Group**

Membership:

Mr Ken Brough  
Cllr Trevor Carbin  
Cllr Mary Champion  
Cllr Sue Evans  
Cllr Simon Jacobs  
Rev Alice Kemp (Chairman)  
Cllr Jonathon Seed  
Cllr John Walsh

Supporting Officer: Henry Powell

Terms of reference:

To explore how we can best prepare young people with SEND for Adulthood, including:

- Local education and training options, including managing transitions
- Planning for employment and supporting local employers to employ young people with SEND
- Providing housing options to support young people with SEND to live in their communities
- Developing communities that are inclusive, welcoming and supportive of young people with SEND.

Recent activity:

Since the task group's final report was endorsed in January 2016 the Task Group and Committee chairmen has had a number of meetings with officers and executive members regarding the issue of accommodation for young adults with SEND. These meetings have covered:

- How families are supported to plan adult accommodation for young people with SEND and how transitions are managed
- How young adults with SEND are supported to bid for properties on the Homes4Wiltshire list
- How data is collected to enable the council to plan and deliver suitable accommodation for young adults with SEND
- What accommodation options are available for young adults with SEND and what the challenges are in meeting everyone's needs.

On 28 February 2017, the chairmen of the task group and select committee meet with officers from the Adult Care, Housing, Strategy & Commissioning team to discuss these issues further. From this meeting (and from previous meetings with other officers), Rev Kemp and Cllr Hubbard have reached the following conclusions:

1. Those with SEND require a variety of housing options, including independent living with occasional support, independent living with live-in or overnight care, shared accommodation with shared communal spaces and support (e.g. 'cluster apartments') or specialist residential homes for those with higher needs.
2. Housing developers can be very risk averse in building non-standard accommodation options and therefore a strong evidence base is needed when persuading them to build housing specifically suitable for those with SEND.
3. The council's ability to support young adults with SEND into suitable accommodation (which includes encouraging housing developers to meet those needs) would be improved if data was passed more effectively from the Children's Services teams to Adults and Housing teams;
4. Although it is not possible to precisely predict and plan for the future accommodation needs of every individual with SEND, more general projections can be made and used to plan housing development. This could be achieved, for example, by calculating the total numbers of individuals in different bandings of need and, from this, the likely number of different types of accommodation required in the future.
5. The existing focus on 'person-centred' planning, where individuals' needs are emphasised, may have inhibited the emphasis on assessing the general picture of future accommodations needs for young people with SEND.
6. It is important to be realistic regarding our ability to create many different accommodation options for young adults with SEND across the county. The main hubs will need to be prioritised given their higher population and their greater access to other support services.

7. Having discussed what data would support more effective planning for future SEND housing needs, the following are put forward as suggestions:

- How many young people have secured accommodation over the last 3-5 years.
- Which area did they move to, e.g. Town/locality
- What type of accommodation did they move to;
  - Residential Care
  - Supported Living
- What type of property did they move into, e.g. was it adapted/shared/general needs/sleep in support

The following data about those who are currently children with SEND could be passed to the Adult services and New Homes teams in order to plan for future adult accommodation needs:

- Home town
- Town/area they need to live in
- Year they leave education
- Year they need housing (if different to point above)
- Type of property required (adapted or not)
- Would they require overnight care?
- As we are looking at the future and new build properties, it would be a good idea to start with 16year olds, working back to 14 year olds, year by year.

**It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services considers the above, explores how it could be delivered and reports back to the Committee under the new Council.**

## **Proposals**

**To endorse the recommendation outlined above.**

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